THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) There are 58 CSS cadre posts of Section Officers and 6 posts of Section Officers (excluded) in the Department of Economic Affairs. While all the 6 posts of Section Officer (excluded) were created for the Budget Division, 2 Section Officer (excluded) are being operated in the Administration and (Currency and Coinage) Division in exchange of two cadre posts of Section Officers, keeping in view administrative exigencies and the experience of officers concerned. As such, the question of upgradation of pay scale of cadre post of Section Officer does not arise.

Delay in confirming vacancies for Inspectors of Central Excise/ Customs and Income Tax

1601. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to inordinate delay in confirming the vacancies for Inspectors of Central Excise/Customs and Income Tax by concerned departments to SSC, the latter is not able to declare final results of the Combined Main (graduate Level) Examination, 1999 even the results are ready;

(b) if so, the reasons for not confirming the vacancies;

(c) whether these Department have been persistently reminded by SSC; and

(d) by when the concerned Departments would confirm their respective vacancies to SSC so that the latter could declare the already delayed results and save thousands of candidates from mental agony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) the vacancies have already been confirmed to SSC.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Recovery of NPA

1602. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of NPAs has been constantly